

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 6 and 14 through 20 are pending in the present application. Claims 7 through 13 have been withdrawn.

The Office Action dated September 26, 2002 rejected claims 1 to 4, 14 to 16, 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. Re. 22,638 to Kleinman ("the Kleinman patent"). In addition, claims 5, 6, 17 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Kleinman patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,189,222 to Doyle ("the Doyle patent").

Regarding claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that present claim 1 is patentable over the Kleinman patent at least because the Kleinman patent fails to disclose or suggest a clipper head that "can be fixedly positioned in any one of at least three preset pivot positions" (emphasis added). The Kleinman patent specifically teaches a unit (L) that can be adjusted into any desirable angular position with respect to a handle (5). (page 2, lines 71-73). The Kleinman patent further teaches that the unit (L) is held tightly in a desired angular position by screw-threaded elements (21), nuts (16) and recesses (19). The Kleinman patent clearly does not disclose or suggest any "preset" positioning arrangement, which is beneficial or preferable to easily/efficiently rigidly secure a clipper head in a position effective to improve a cutting effect. Thus, the Kleinman patent not only fails to disclose or suggest all of the features of claim 1, but also fails to appreciate the benefits associated with the invention of claim 1. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that at least for this reason the rejection of claim 1 be reconsidered and withdrawn, and the allowance

thereof granted.

Regarding the rejection of claims 2 to 4 and claims 5 and 6, it is respectfully submitted that each claim depends either directly or indirectly from claim 1, and thus, are each patentable at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1. Further regarding claims 5 and 6, it is respectfully submitted that contrary to what was suggested by the Action, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have combined the teachings of the Kleinman patent with those of the Doyle patent at least because neither reference provides a reason or suggestion to make such combination. The Kleinman patent is specifically directed to an adjustable head portion of a razor assembly, while the Doyle patent is distinctly directed to an adjustable handle portion of a razor assembly. Hence, as neither of the cited references disclose or suggest the "preset" feature defined by claim 1 and as there is no reason to make the cited combination of references, it is respectfully requested that the rejection with respect to claims 2 to 6 be reconsidered and withdrawn, and the allowance thereof granted.

Regarding the rejection of claim 14, it is respectfully submitted that present claim 14 is patentable over the Kleinman patent at least for reasons similar to those discussed above with respect to claim 1. That is to say, the Kleinman patent clearly fails to disclose or suggest a clipper head that "can be fixedly positioned in any one of at least three preset pivot positions" (emphasis added). Accordingly, as the Kleinman patent does not disclose or suggest the "preset" positioning feature defined by claim 14, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claim 14 be reconsidered and withdrawn, and the allowance thereof be granted.

Regarding the rejection of claims 15 through 18, it is respectfully submitted that each claim depends either directly or indirectly from claim 14, and thus, are each patentable at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 14. In addition, regarding claims 17 and 18, it is respectfully submitted that at least for the same reasons stated above with respect to claims 5 and 6, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have combined the teachings of the Kleinman patent with those of the Doyle patent. Hence, as neither of the cited references disclose or suggest the "preset" feature defined by claim 14 and as there is no reason to combine the cited references, it is respectfully requested that the rejection with respect to claims 15 to 18 be reconsidered and withdrawn, and the allowance thereof granted.

Regarding the rejection of claim 19, it is respectfully submitted that, as with claims 1 and 14, the Kleinman patent fails to disclose all of the claim features of claim 19. The Kleinman patent fails to disclose or suggest a clipper head that "can be fixedly positioned in any one of at least three preset pivot positions" (emphasis added). Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection with respect to claim 19 be reconsidered and withdrawn, and the allowance thereof granted.

Regarding the rejection of claim 20, it is respectfully submitted that claim 20 depends from claim 19, and thus, is patentable at least for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 19. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection with respect to claim 20 be reconsidered and withdrawn, and the allowance thereof granted.

In sum, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are clearly patentable over each cited reference and the cited combinations of the same. Thus, this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of all rejections of the claims are respectfully requested.

Dated:

January 21, 2003



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1 through 6 and claims 14 through 20 as follows:

1. (Amended) [An improved] A hair clipper comprising:

a clipper head ~~[including]~~ having a ~~[stationary blade having teeth and a reciprocating blade having teeth, wherein the teeth of the stationary blade are substantially parallel to the teeth of the reciprocating blade forming a cutting edge]~~ cutting assembly;

a handle having a longitudinal axis; and [means]

a head connector ~~[for reciprocating the reciprocating blade]~~
[such] so that hair positioned within the teeth of the stationary blade are cut by the teeth of the reciprocating blade; and

means] for connecting the clipper head and the handle such that the clipper head pivots about an axis of rotation that is perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the handle [and parallel to the cutting edge],

wherein the clipper head can be fixedly positioned in any one of at least three preset pivot positions.

2. (Amended) The hair clipper of claim 1, wherein the [connecting means] head connector comprises:

at least one [leg] arm being disposed on the handle and offset from the longitudinal axis of the handle;

a first connector being disposed on the at least one [leg] arm; and

a second connector being positioned on the clipper head,

wherein the first and second connectors join the clipper head to the [leg] arm of the handle such that the clipper head pivots about the axis of rotation.

3. (Amended) The hair clipper of claim 1, wherein the [connecting means] head connector is adapted to join the clipper head and the handle such that the clipper head is securable in any one of [a plurality of] the preset pivoted positions.

4. (Amended) The hair clipper of claim 3, wherein the [connecting means] head connector comprises:

at least one [leg] arm being disposed on the handle and offset from the longitudinal axis of the handle;

a first connector being disposed on the at least one [leg] arm; and

a second connector being positioned on the clipper head, wherein the first and second connectors join the clipper head to the [leg] arm of the handle such that the clipper head pivots about the axis of rotation and such that the clipper head is securable in any one of the plurality of pivoted positions.

5. (Amended) The hair clipper of claim 4, wherein the first connector is a first gear, the second connector is a second gear, and the [connecting means includes means] head connector has a releasing mechanism for meshing and unmeshing the first gear and the second gear, such that when the first gear is meshed with the second gear the clipper head is secured in any one of the [plurality of pivoted] pivot positions, and when the first gear is unmeshed from the second gear the clipper head is pivotable about the axis of rotation.

6. (Amended) The hair clipper of claim 5, wherein the [means] releasing mechanism for meshing and unmeshing comprises a release button adapted to mesh the first gear with the second gear and adapted to be depressed to unmesh the first gear from the second gear.

14. (Amended) A hair clipper comprising:

a clipper head [including] having pivot points positioned on opposite sides [of the head] thereof, a stationary blade having teeth and a reciprocating blade having teeth, wherein the teeth of the stationary blade are substantially parallel to the teeth of the reciprocating blade [forming] to form a cutting edge; and

a handle having a longitudinal axis, a pair of [legs] arms, a connector disposed on each [leg] arm, and a [means] mechanism for reciprocating the reciprocating blade such that hair positioned within the teeth of the stationary blade are cut by the teeth of the reciprocating blade,

wherein each connector is adapted to engage one of the pivot points such that the clipper head [is pivotable] can be fixedly positioned in any one of at least three preset pivot positions about an axis of rotation perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the handle and parallel to the cutting edge.

15. (Amended) The hair clipper of claim 14, wherein the connectors disposed on each arm and the pivot points are adapted to join the clipper head and the handle such that the clipper head is securable in any one of a [plurality] number of preset pivoted positions.

16. (Amended) The hair clipper of claim 15, further comprising a [means] mechanism for selectively releasing and securing the connectors and the pivot points such that the clipper head is secured in any one of the plurality of pivoted positions when the connectors and pivot points are secured [the clipper head is secured in any one of the plurality of pivoted positions], and [when the connectors and pivot points are released] the clipper head is pivotable about the axis of rotation when the connectors and pivot points are released.

17. (Amended) The hair clipper of claim 16, wherein the connectors are first gears, the pivot points are second gears, and the releasing and securing [means] mechanism is adapted to release and secure the first gears with the second gears, respectively, such that when the first gears are secured with the second gears the clipper head is secured in any one of the [plurality] number of pivoted positions, and the clipper head is pivotable about the axis of rotation when the first gears are released from the second gears [the clipper head is pivotable

about the axis of rotation].

18. (Amended) The hair clipper of claim 16, wherein the releasing and securing [means comprises] mechanism has a release button adapted to normally secure the connectors and the pivot points, and adapted to be depressed to release the connectors and the pivot points.

19. (Amended) An electric hair clipper comprising:

a clipper head [including a stationary blade having teeth and a reciprocating blade having teeth, wherein the teeth of the stationary blade are substantially parallel to the teeth of the reciprocating blade forming a cutting edge] having a cutting assembly;

a handle having a longitudinal axis, and housing a motor [for reciprocating the reciprocating blade] operatively connected to the cutting assembly such that hair positioned within the cutting edge [are] is cut; and

[means] a head connector for [joining disposed on] connecting the clipper head and the handle [for joining the clipper head to the handle] such that the clipper head [pivots] can be fixedly positioned in any one of at least three preset pivot positions about an axis of rotation that is perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the handle[, parallel to the cutting edge and offset from the cutting edge towards the handle].

20. (Amended) The electric hair clipper of claim 19, wherein the [means for joining is further adapted to join] head connector joins the clipper head and the handle such that the

*clipper head is securable in any one of a [plurality] number of preset pivoted positions.